

Michigan PTA would like to submit the following statement in support of funding the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

Dear Chairman Lyons and committee members,

Michigan PTA strongly supports the implementation of the Common Core State Standards for Michigan students. The Common Core State Standards are true internationally benchmarked standards that will raise the bar for all Michigan students. Countries that have the most knowledgeable workforce have the strongest economic growth. We have dedicated ourselves to making sure that every child in every school in every community is prepared for college or career. The Common Core levels the playing field and is the best chance that we have to prepare our students for the future.

We want every child in Michigan to be prepared to succeed after high school - whether they go right into the workforce or into postsecondary education - and that means our standards have to include the skills they will need for college and careers.

We think expectations for our students should be the same as those in other states that are reaching higher to ensure students are prepared - and Common Core State Standards provide those rigorous expectations.

We want all children - and all teachers - to benefit from the opportunities that common standards provide, things like better textbooks and online learning materials and the many resources that are being developed and shared by teachers throughout the country.

The business community - those who create jobs and economic opportunity - strongly support the common core state standards.

Our teachers and school leaders agree that these standards are good for our students and they want to continue the work they have started to teach our children using these standards.

True education reform will never exist until the WANTS of adults no longer overshadow the NEEDS of children. Our children deserve a quality education. As parents and child advocates, we want you to support our educators, our children and our state by continuing to fund the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

Respectfully,

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